

## AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

November 18, 2008

Town Room, Town Hall

### Minutes

**Members Present:** Ruth Hazzard, Jaime Tidlund, Pauline Lannon and Pat Wagner

**Members Absent:** Bob Saul, John Ingram, Casey Steinberg, Sarah Swartz, Linda Hess

**Select Board Liaison Present:** Diana Stein

Vice Chair Ruth Hazzard announced that Bob Saul would not be able to attend the meeting, and that she would therefore, conduct the business of the Commission. She also indicated **Bob Saul's desire to step down as Chair**, due to an overextended schedule with other activities.

Discussion followed regarding the **lack of quorums** being present at this meeting and the previous meeting. It is extremely important that members attend meetings regularly, since there are several large projects on the horizon, i.e. the annual farmers forum in March and the Farm Festival scheduled for October, 2009.

It was indicated that the **Amherst Farm Guide** is now available at Amherst Farmers Supply and Atkins Fruit Bowl. However, it was felt more publicity was needed to let the public know the book was available. Pat Wagner offered to contact Pete Westover to see if something could be placed in local newspapers.

After discussion, it was decided to wait to select a date for the **joint meeting with the Conservation Commission** in January until more members were present with schedules in hand.

**Conference flyers** were handed out regarding:

1. "Western Massachusetts Land Trusts and Working Land" – scheduled for December 2 in Hadley; December 3 in Leominster; December 9 in Stockbridge.
2. "Massachusetts Agricultural Commissions: Making a Difference in Our Communities" – January 23-24, 2009 in Worcester.

An update on **Kendrick Park** plans was given including possible suggestions of tree plantings and a multi purpose building, but as yet, no definite decision/plan is in place.

General discussion was held regarding the **October Farm Festival**. A suggestion was made that an activity should be planned within the schools, perhaps concentrating on the "buy local" theme. Perhaps Stephanie Chicarelli's husband could assist with the preparation of displays on this theme. Stephanie is the Wetlands Officer in the Conservation Office.

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**Page 2 of 2**

Generally, it was the feeling of those present that we should hold the annual Farmers Forum in March, but due to a lack of a quorum, it was agreed this should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

December 9, 2008 Meeting Agenda Items:

- (1) Plans to increase membership attendance at future meetings;
- (2) Selecting a new chair;
- (3) Initial plans for Farm Festival in October;
- (4) Kendrick Park update;
- (5) Plans for Farmers Forum in March.